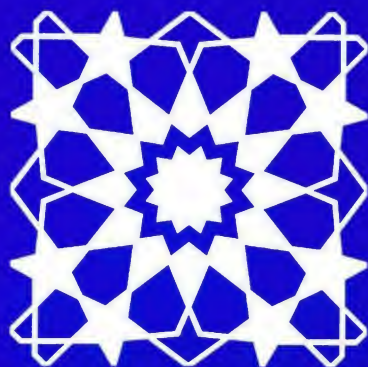


# RAMADAAN

A New Life for  
a True Mu'min

Moulana Sayyid Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi



Foreword

الحمد لله وكفى وسلام على عباده الذين اصطفى، اما بعد !

It was the practice of Hadrat Moulana Sayyid Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi (Rahmatullah alaihi) to spend every Ramadaan in Takya in his hometown, Rai Bareili where his disciples and associates would gather for the purpose of *Ibaadah* and seeking the pleasure of Allah. During the day, there would be talks and advices on various *Deeni* topics. People were also encouraged to engage in *Zikrullah* and *Nawaafil* which they immediately practiced upon.

Then, on Fridays, after Jumu'ah salaah, Hadrat Moulana would deliver a simple yet inspiring talk which would highlight the specialities of the blessed month of Ramadaan. He would also show how to gain maximum benefit from it and to regard it as a golden opportunity to mould our lives on the pattern of *imaan* and *ikhlaas*.

He would explain the *Deeni* benefits of Ramadaanul Mubaarak from different angles. He would emphasize that the month-long fast should motivate us to make effort for the greater fast which begins at puberty and ends when we die. This refers to the fast (i.e. an abstention) from all those things prohibited by the *Shari'ah*.

This booklet contains a sample of the advices of Hadrat Moulana which he delivered on a Friday in Ramadaan two years ago (1418 A.H.). The talk was transcribed by Sayyid Khateeb Ashraf Nadwi and published in the monthly *Ta'meer Hayaat*.

This is such a talk that every fasting person should read and derive benefit from, every Ramadaan.

**And Allah alone grants guidance!**

Muhammad Raabi' Hasani Nadwi

Introduction

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلوة والسلام على سيد المرسلين وعلى آله وصحبه اجمعين -

My respected friends,  
Firstly, I wish to compliment you and myself over the fact that Allah Ta'ala has again revealed to us the new moon, and graced us with the arrival of this auspicious month of Ramadaan. So many of our friends and loved ones, who may have been far better than us – for Allah alone knows the position of everyone of us – have departed from this world before Ramadaan. If Allah Ta'ala wills that they be made aware of our good fortune in their graves, then they would certainly regret not having attained the month of Ramadaan.

Ramadaan has no Substitute

Ramadaan certainly has no substitute. All the months belong to Allah Ta'ala. Allah alone has created the world. He alone has created time, and time continuously changes, yet the special feature of Ramadaan is such, that Allah Ta'ala says:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ (سورة البقرة ١٨٥)

*The month of Ramadaan is the month in which was revealed the Qur'aan, a guide for mankind and open signs of Hidaayah (guidance) and a criterion (between truth and falsehood).* (al-Baqarah)

Virtues and Significance of Ramadaan

Ramadaan is no ordinary month. We usually do not pay much attention to what we always see or are familiar with, like for instance, the road on which we always travel. Similarly, we do not take much notice of what we are used to hearing, to the extent that every time we hear the *azaan*, we do not ponder over the meaning of its words.



Just imagine! It is not a trivial matter when Allah Ta'ala has said that Ramadaan is the month wherein the Qur'aan Shareef was revealed. What greater honour could be conferred upon any time and place than for the *Kalaam* of Allah Ta'ala to be revealed in it?

### A Rare Opportunity!

Firstly, let us accept the fact that Allah Ta'ala has really blessed us by allowing us to again witness this holy month of Ramadaan. Secondly, let us pledge that this Ramadaan we will make up for all the sins and shortcomings that we can remember to have committed in the previous Ramadaans.

Of course, the weather at the moment is quite severe, but then, rewards are always proportionate to our patience and sacrifice. In such weather conditions, it will not be surprising if Allah Ta'ala increases our reward, firstly for keeping the fast, and then for bearing the severe weather. Furthermore, the reward we will gain for completing our various *ma'moolaat* (religious observances) during Ramadaan will also be proportionate to the difficulties we experience in doing so.

### Yaqeen in Allah and the Desire for Sawaab

In this month, let us remember and engrave into our hearts, what Rasulullah ﷺ has said regarding specific acts of *ibaadah* in this month:

من قام ليلة القدر ايمانا واحتسابا غفر له ما تقدم من ذنبه ومن صام رمضان ايمانا واحتسابا غفر له ما تقدم من ذنبه

This means that *whoever stays awake to perform ibaadah on the night of Qadr with faith in the promises of Allah, desiring and hoping for reward, all his past sins will be forgiven, And whoever fasts in Ramadaan believing firmly in the promises of Allah T'ala – about the virtues of this month, and the rewards*

*of good deeds therein, and having conviction of the status of this month that is so much loved by Allah Ta'ala and His Rasul ﷺ – and he kept the fast earnestly hoping for rewards from Allah Ta'ala, all his past sins will be forgiven.*

Of course, our motive for fasting should not be for Ramadaan to finish quickly, or that: '*people should not be able to say that I'm not fasting*'. Neither should we be glad that we managed the fast – without having sincerely hoped for *sawaab* or without even being conscious of the great virtue and significance of Ramadaan or without even thinking that this month is here to spur us into action. Many people fast merely because of habit or as a routine or under pressure from their surroundings or because it is a family tradition, but they hardly gain anything from it.

### Fasting for the sake of Iftaar

In this regard, I had an experience about 25 years ago. Lucknow Radio had requested me to write a talk which was to be broadcast on the first day of Ramadaan. I prepared it and handed it to them. Thereafter I went on a long journey to Pakistan for some *Deeni* work which took me to Peshawar, Quetta and towards Kandahar and very close to the Afghanistan border.

Anyway, I was in Quetta when the Ramadaan moon was sighted. I was invited to supper at the home of some army officer or some other prominent person. A military officer who was from India also joined us in our meal. He had listened to the talk on the radio – even though I hadn't – and said to me, "Moulana, I heard your talk on Lucknow Radio where you mentioned so many virtues and special characteristics of Ramadaan – but one thing you did not mention was the unique pleasure the fasting person experiences when he breaks his fast at *iftaar*. The extreme pleasure of drinking water at the time of breaking fast in the hot summer, and the joy when breaking fast during other seasons, cannot be found in any other gift of

this world. Personally, I keep fast only for this.”

He clearly said that he fasted just for the enjoyment of that pleasure with which nothing in the world could compare – not even a delicious meal or some tasty fruit for that matter.

**Fasting – Habit or Worship?**

As human beings, it is very difficult for anyone, even for us as Muslims to differentiate between *aadah* (a habit) and *Ibaadah* (an act of worship) since both are inter-linked. Therefore, very often an act of worship gets reduced to a habit and we no longer realize why we are performing it. Sometimes, even our Salaah becomes like a ritual or habit so much so that when it is time for salaah, we respond without even being conscious of the *sawaab* that we receive for every step that we take. Nor do we realise why we are going to the masjid or what we mean when we make the *niyyah* (intention) to enter: “O Allah, open for me the doors of Your mercy” Sometimes we even fail to realize that we have now entered the house of Allah, the place of mercy and blessings.

In fact, just as something is imprinted onto a piece of cloth, so too does a ‘religious’ way of life get imprinted onto a person. Subsequently everything gets done according to place and time without actually realizing the purpose behind it.

**Fasting – A way to gain Allah’s Pleasure**

The first thing to remember is that you are fasting in order to *make Allah Ta’ala happy*. Remember that you are not fasting to show people, or as a ritual, or out of shame or merely to avoid people saying that you are shameless and not keeping fast.

Similarly it is mentioned regarding *Lailatul Qadr*:

من قام ليلة القدر ايماناً واحتساباً غُفِرَ له ما تقدم من ذنبه -

that *whoever spends this night in ibaadah with firm faith in Allah and believing firmly in the promises of Allah and seeking ajr and reward from Him, then all his past sins will be forgiven*. So, you should be fully aware of this fact and constantly remind yourself that: “I am fasting only for the pleasure of my Allah because *He* has made it *fard* (obligatory) upon me.”

**The Mercy of Allah**

Allah Ta’ala has kept great distinctive features in the month of Ramadaan. It has a tremendous amount of *barakaat* (blessings). It is a time when Allah Ta’ala’s mercy is directed towards us in full measure, enshrouding everyone, including the greatest of sinners who are forgiven for their sins.

**Season for Reciting the Qur’aan**

Thereafter, while fasting you should try to busy yourself with as much *ibaadah* such as *Nawaafil* Salaah etc. as is possible. More than in *Nawaafil*, spend your time in reciting the Qur’aan Majeed as much as your health, ability and time allows you, and this should be definitely more than on other days of the year. Some fortunate servants of Allah Ta’ala recite one complete Qur’aan daily during this month.

Hadrat Shaikhul Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (Rahimahullah) used to complete one reading of the Qur’aan daily in this month. I was fortunate to spend many Ramadaans in his company apart from visiting him many times during the other Ramadaans.

Recite the Qur’aan Shareef with respect, reverence and special devotion, regarding it as Allah Ta’ala’s special favour that He has granted us the opportunity to recite *His* Kalaam in this blessed month. Indeed, the reward of reciting the Qur’aan Majeed in Ramadaan, the beloved month of Allah Ta’ala, cannot be attained at any other time.



## The Month of Ibaadah and Obedience

Most of our time should be spent in *ibaadah* and *riyaadah* (spiritually uplifting exercises), *Zikr* of Allah, *taubah*, *istighfaar* (seeking forgiveness from Allah), *du'a* (supplicating to Allah) and recitation of the Qur'aan. However, we should also avoid talking too much – even if we do not indulge in *gheebah* (backbiting) because *gheebah* is something against which we must protect ourselves at all times and more especially during Ramadaan. In this month, we should avoid even permissible talk – like the discussion among friends at home about the happenings of our town or about the weather or about life in general, just to pass our time. This should not happen!

As far as possible, spend your time reciting the Qur'aan or in resting or staying in the masjid with the intention of *i'tikaaf*. One type of *i'tikaaf* is during the last ten days of Ramadaan but another *i'tikaaf* is an optional one that can be done at all times. For instance, from Zuhr to Asr or Asr to Maghrib – a person could be in *i'tikaaf* in the masjid. This is a type of partial or short *i'tikaaf* that we could also perform.

## The Rights of Others

We should also recall the rights we owe to others and firmly resolve to fulfil them immediately by giving to everyone whatever we owe them. We should also be careful to avoid repeating our past wrongs and sincerely repent to Allah Ta'ala.

## Ramadaan – the Beginning of a New Life

This Ramadaan, let us draw up a plan for the remainder of our life. One new life begins at birth, another life begins at puberty, another one begins after graduating from one's studies, while another one begins after performing Haj. In the same way, another new life also begins from Ramadaan.

Therefore, resolve that from this Ramadaan you will become more

regular in your salaah than ever before. In the past, you would sometimes miss your salaah with *jamaat* and sometimes even perform it after its time. At times you were fast asleep during the time of salaah. Now resolve that you will be more punctual and regular in your salaah with *jamaat*. Make a firm intention of doing so this Ramadaan!

## Awareness and fulfilment of the Rights of Others

Similarly, resolve firmly to discharge all your other *Shar'i* obligations like those concerning inheritance, properties or the shares of others in partnerships or in business etc. This Ramadaan, make the intention that *Insha Allah*, you will discharge all the rights and dues that others have upon you.

## Seeking Knowledge and staying in the Company of the Ulama and the Pious

Also make this intention that after Ramadaan, you will acquire as much knowledge of *Deen* as possible. You will read Islamic books, spend most of your time in *Deeni* (religious) circles, go out in the path of Allah Ta'ala, sit in gatherings of the Ulama or visit the pious friends of Allah Ta'ala.

## Ramadaan – A Month that Marks the Beginning of Change

This Ramadaan make a firm resolution to do all this. Only then will this Ramadaan become a turning point in your life and induce you to change, and only then will it be a dawn of a new life for you.

## Sincerity and Correction of Intention in Deeds

Simply this much is needed when fasting: that you correct your intention and bear in mind the conditions mentioned in the Hadith of *imaan* – that we keep fast believing strongly in the promises of Allah Ta'ala and *ih-tisaab* – hoping for great rewards from Him.

## Mechanical Wudhu and Salaah

Hadrat Moulana Muhammad Ilyas (Rahimahullah) used to say that people perform wudhu without realizing what they are doing whereas the Hadith teaches us that when a person washes his hands in wudhu, then all the minor sins committed by his hands are forgiven. When he puts water onto his face, then the sins committed by the eyes in looking at evil and the tongue in speaking evil are all forgiven. Yet hardly anyone realizes all this! Sadly, our wudhu has also become mechanical and Allah forbid! even the salaah of some of us has become so mechanical! A person comes, stands upright and says: ALLAAHU AKBAR but he does not even think to himself: *Who am I standing before? Which salaah is this? What is the sawaab for the salaah that I'm performing?* We should also ponder over what is being recited in our salaah, whether we are performing it individually or standing behind the Imaam in a *jahri* (loud) salaah.

All these things have become cast in a mould and become second nature and are performed like lifeless rituals. Let this Ramadaan herald some great change and progress in your life!

## The Message of this Place

The message delivered here (in Shah Alamullah) where you (i.e. the audience) are present was also the same. It was here where Allah Ta'ala created such of His servants who turned the attention of the whole of the Indian subcontinent towards *Deen*. They rekindled the flames of *Ishq-Ilaahi* (the love of Allah), and the fervour to sacrifice for *Deen* and regenerated a dislike for *shirk* (making partners with Allah) and *bid'ah* (innovation) in the hearts of the people.

Whoever placed his hands into the hands of Hadrat Sayyid Ahmad Shaheed (Rahimahullah), immediately on removing his hands, his heart was filled with an aversion to *shirk* and the prevalent un-Islamic customs, and he became regular with salaah and began to make the *Zikr* of Allah Ta'ala and was fired with the zeal for *jihad*.

So remember that you are at the place from where this call reached the whole of the subcontinent. From here, the winds blew in all directions to re-ignite the spirit of *Deen* in the hearts of people.

## Rights of the Forgotten City

Finally, I would like to add – and this is not something compulsory but an act of great benefit to you and this place – that you recite the Qur'aan Shareef and convey the reward (i.e. make *Isaale sawaab*) to those that are buried here, to the pious servants of Allah Ta'ala and to everyone else, including your families and even those who came from other places and are buried here. Make *Isaale sawaab* for all those people. Recite *Surah al-Faatihah* at least. Of course, neighbours also have rights over us, and *this* is their right over us.

## The Blessings of Isaale-Sawaab

*Masha Allah!* So many people are fasting and reciting the Qur'aan Shareef and performing *Tahajjud* salaah, but sadly the dwellers of the *qabrastaan* (cemetery) here have no share in this. It should not be so! They should enjoy some share in all this! By conveying some of your reward, they too will be able to gain reward from Allah and so will you, and Allah Ta'ala will even grant you progress and strength and increase you in your ability to do more. *Insha-Allah*, this will bring you great blessings in your life, since these people were the true and sincere servants of Allah Ta'ala through whom Islam reached the pinnacles of glory.

## Who knows? This is perhaps your Last Ramadaan

*May Allah Ta'ala grant you and me the ability to appreciate this Ramadaan. May He bless you with many more Ramadaans.* But remember that no sin should be committed this Ramadaan. We should not think: *well, we will get many more Ramadaans.* No! We should treat every Ramadaan as if we do not know if we will ever be given



another opportunity after this one. It is not just a question of whether we will live until next Ramadaan or not, but there is also the question of good health, or the prospect of some misfortune, etc. befalling us! *May Allah Ta'ala protect us from all this and bless you with many more Ramadaans after this.* We must value this Ramadaan and exert ourselves to the fullest.

### Abundant Durood Shareef (Salawaat alan-Nabi)

We should make *du'a* to Allah Ta'ala, seek His forgiveness, recite Qur'aan Shareef, make *Isaale-sawaab* and be particular in reciting Durood Shareef upon Rasulullah ﷺ. During our stay here, after devoting most of our time to salaah and recitation of Qur'aan Shareef, we should give much importance to reciting Durood Shareef. At least once, we should recite the *masnoon* Durood Shareef.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ  
اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ

Similarly we should be particular in making *du'a* for the people of *Imaan* like for instance:

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا  
رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ

We should constantly recite:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَخْيَارِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ

*May Allah Ta'ala bless you and me with the ability to act upon this and to make this Ramadaan a turning point in our lives.*  
Aameen

وصلّى الله وسلّم على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين